

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01

SY-05 DHA-02 /061 W

----- 075342

R 311243Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2570

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 2546

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ZA

SUBJECT: ALICE LENSHINA, OTHER DETAINEES RELEASED

REF: LUSAKA 2512 (NOTAL), LUSAKA 2543

SUMMARY: AFTER 11 YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT GRZ DEC 23 RELEASED ALICE LENSHINA, LEADER OF LUMPA SECT, WHOSE RESISTENCE TO AUTHORITY IN 1963-64 RESULTED IN OVER 700 DEATHS. ADDITIONAL 96 DETAINEES ALSO RELEASED ON CHRISTMAS EVE. THESE ACTIONS APPEAR BE WELL CALCULATED PRE-CHRISTMAS MOVE DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE BOTH GRZ'S GOODWILL AND CONFIDENCE, AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL WARNING TO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES (REFTELS).

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. RELEASE OF ALICE LENSHINA (BORN ALICE ESTHER MULENGA), NOW 56, ANNOUNCED DEC 23 BY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS MILNER ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIRECTIVE OF PRES KAUNDA, ACCORDING TO PRESS. LENSHINA

PLACED ON "TEMPORARY RESTRICTION" AND ORDERED TO REPORT TO POLICE WEEKLY. MILNER SAID LIFTING OF RESTRICTION WOULD DEPEND ON HER BEHAVIOR. TOLD HER THAT LUMPA CHURCH, WHICH SHE FOUNDED IN 1950'S, IS BANNED IN ZAMBIA FOREVER AND THAT SHE SHOULD IN NO WAY TRY REVIVE IT. MILNER SAID FORMER LUMPA FOLLOWERS OUTSIDE COUNTRY ARE FREE RETURN TO ZAMBIA AND JOIN CHURCHES OF THEIR CHOICE WHOSE EXISTENCE IN ZAMBIA AUTHORIZED BY LAW. HE SAID GRZ GIVING LENSINA HOUSE IN AFRICAN SUBURB

OF LUSAKA AND THAT SHE "FREE TO LIVE IN ZAMBIA AND BE VISITED BY HER CHILDREN AND CLOSE RELATIVES AS LONG AS THERE ARE NONE AMONG THEM VISITING HER MASQUERADING AS RELATIVES WITH SINISTER MOTIVES." ACCORDING TO PRESS, LENSINA ATTENDED CHURCH SERVICE OF UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND FOLLOWING SUNDAY. SHE WAS REPORTED WARMLY RECEIVED AND CONSIDERING JOINING UCZ.

2. GRZ ALSO ANNOUNCED DEC 29 RELEASE ON CHRISTMAS EVE OF 96 PERSONS DETAINED TWO YEARS AGO IN CONNECTION WITH TREASON TRIAL OF FORMER MAYOR OF LIVINGSTONE WILLIAM CHIPANGO AND THREE OTHERS, WHO WERE CHARGED WITH RECRUITING ZAMBIANS FOR MILITARY TRAINING IN NAMIBIA WITH AIM OF OVERTHROWING ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT: GRZ APPARENTLY FEELS THAT AFTER 11 YEARS LUMPA CHURCH NO LONGER CONSTITUTES CHALLENGE TO ITS AUTHORITY. ONE MEMBER PARLIAMENT FOR NORTHERN PROVINCE, WHERE LUMPA SECT ONCE WAS STRONG, SAYS HE KNOWS OF NO LUMPA FOLLOWERS REMAINING IN HIS CONSTITUENCY AND THAT IT IS HIS IMPRESSION THEY ARE DISPERSED, WITH MANY NOW LIVING IN ZAIRE'S PEDICLE. TIMING OF THESE RELEASES, AS PRES KAUNDA LEAVING TO SPEND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS IN HOMETOWN OF CHINSALI, WHERE LENSINA ALSO GOT HER START, SEEMS BE WELL CALCULATED GRZ MOVE TO DEMONSTRATE BOTH GOODWILL AND CONFIDENCE. IT MAY ALSO BE DESIGNED TO COUNTERBALANCE DEPORTATION OF JEHOVAH WITNESSES (REFTELS) BY SHOWING GRZ WILLINGNESS TO FORGIVE, PROVIDED TRANSGRESSORS WILLING TO REPENT. IT ALSO SERVES AS ADDITIONAL BUT SUBTLE REMINDER TO WITNESSES THAT THEY TOO RISK BEING BANNED FOREVER IF THEY CONTINUE SHOW UNWILLINGNESS ADJUST SELVES TO ZAMBIAN SOCIETY.

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WILKOWSKI

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NNN

Message Attributes

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